GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:93
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Field Offices of Rubber Board
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the field offices of the Rubber Board functioning in various parts of the country;

(b) whether the Government has any record regarding the number of these field offices of the Rubber Board and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has recently decided to reduce the number of field offices of the Rubber Board and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government has received any complaint in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) &(b) Field Offices of Rubber Board are base level extension offices, stationed at remote villages of rubber growing regions of the county manned by a single Field Officer. The main functions of Field Officers areadvisory and extension services to growers on all aspects of rubber cultivation, harvesting and post-harvesting operations, inspection of rubber plantations for recommending planting subsidy under Rubber Plantation Development & Extension Scheme of Rubber Board, guidance to voluntary forums of small growers viz., Rubber Producers Societies (RPS) in the region, collectionof statistics on rubber production and related aspects etc.State-wise number of Field Offices are as under:

Sl No State No. of Field Offices
1. Tamil Nadu 2
2. Kerala 111
3. Karnataka 8
4. Goa 1
5. Andhra Pradesh 1
6. Odisha 3
7. West Bengal 1
8. Assam 14
9. Tripura 12
10. Manipur 1
11. Meghalaya 4
12. Nagaland 3
13. Arunachal Pradesh 3
14. Mizoram 1
Total 165

(c) &(d) The number of Field offices of Rubber Board has not been reduced. However, the 26 Field Offices in Kerala has been shifted to adjacent Field/Regional offices falling within an average distance of 15 km. There is no reduction in the number of Field Officers, who will discharge their duties from the relocated positions. The jurisdiction of the Field Officers of the shifted Field Offices being the same, there is no compromise in the services/facilities available to rubber growers from these offices. This has been done in view of austerity measures in Rubber Board to reduce establishment cost. No complaint in this regard has been received.However, a reference has been received from Hon'ble MP in the matter.

****